

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 3, 6, 8-11 and 15-17 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 to read as follows:

1 1. (twice amended) A sealing system for a rotating machine having a stationary  
2 element and a drive element rotationally connected to said stationary element, the sealing  
3 system comprising:

4 a plate comprising a bearing surface, the plate for connecting to one of said drive  
5 element and said stationary element; and

6 a sealing assembly comprising a resilient bellows and a bearing surface, the  
7 bellows having a plurality of corrugations and a tapered collar extending inwardly from  
8 an end of the bellows, and the bellows providing a force which causes the bearing surface  
9 of the sealing assembly to bear on the bearing surface of the plate to form a dynamic seal.

1 2. (amended) The sealing system of claim 1, wherein the sealing assembly further  
2 comprises a thrust plate attached to the collar, and wherein the thrust plate provides said  
3 bearing surface of the sealing assembly.

B2 1 4. (amended) The sealing system of claim 2, wherein the sealing assembly further  
2 comprises a static sealing element, the static sealing element being disposed within a gap  
3 provided between the collar and the thrust plate.

1 5. The sealing system of claim 1, further comprising a mounting element for  
2 connecting said plate to said one of said drive and stationary elements.

Please add new claims 18-24 as follows:

1            18. (new) A resilient bellows for a sealing system in a rotating machine having  
2            a stationary element and a drive element rotationally connected to said stationary element,  
3            the resilient bellows comprising:  
4            a hollow body;  
5            a plurality of corrugations in the body; and  
6            a tapered collar extended inwardly from an end of the body for receiving a plate.

1            19. (new) The resilient bellows of claim 18, wherein the tapered collar comprises  
2            an inwardly turned edge of the body.

1            20. (new) The resilient bellows of claim 18, wherein the tapered collar has a  
2            frustoconical shape.

1            21. (new) The resilient bellows of claim 18, further comprising a sealing structure  
2            disposed at the tapered collar for statically sealing the plate to the bellows.

1            22. (new) The resilient bellows of claim 21, wherein the sealing structure  
2            comprises a gasket.

1            23. (new) The resilient bellows of claim 21, wherein the sealing structure  
2            comprises a sealant.

1            24. (new) A method for forming a resilient bellows for a sealing system in a  
2            rotating machine having a stationary element and a drive element rotationally connected

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to said stationary element, the method comprising steps of:

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forming a bellows having a corrugated hollow body; and

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folding an end of the body inwardly to form a collar for receiving a plate.

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